

Holiday PANORAMA



A State Hornet Special Publication



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Holiday Panorama

December 10, 1986

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Special thanks to Bryan for all the happening graphics, to Ray for chocolate and photos, Sharon and Val, without whom this would not be typeset, Val, who matched me cup for cup in coffee drinking), and Jeanne-Marie Suhmann (and aforementioned few) for giving up a perfectly beautiful Sunday afternoon to put this together with me. Thanks!

Carella
Special Publications Editor

Christmas lists of the overworked and famous

What do you want for Christmas?



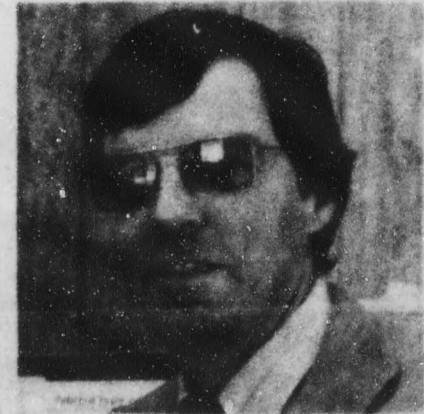
Joe Serna, professor of government and Sacramento city councilman: "I want light rail to stop running a deficit. Actually I am getting my Christmas wish because I am going on sabbatical next semester. I also want good health for me and my family."



President Gerth: "I want a new classroom building, and a new multi-story parking garage. On a personal level, I want all of our family together and everyone happy."



David Burns, ASI student body president: "I want ASI's survival through a cooperative senate."



Michael J. Fitzgerald, associate professor of journalism and adviser of *The State Hornet*: "I want narrower ties, more computers for *The Hornet*, my bus to be on time and shorter lines at Burger King."

Managing the holidays on a student's budget

by Karen Klug
Staff Writer

"Tis the season to be jolly," claims a popular Christmas carol; but, this time of year also fills many people's mind with lists of purchases to make and Christmas gifts to buy.

There are television commercials and magazine and newspaper advertisements everywhere trying to sell grandiose and expensive gifts to the public. All of the items advertised are tantalizing and tempting, and possibly even useful, but very few are reasonably affordable. Especially for someone who is functioning on a college student's budget. Although it's most likely that college students will not be able to buy the fur coat of their mothers' dreams or their fathers' dream car to cruise around town in, there is still hope for college students this Christmas.

Homemade gifts can be practical or for fun, and have that extra personal touch and a little tender loving care. Starting in the kitchen, baked goods are always a big success. Make someone's favorite treat or dessert, try some new recipes with a Christmas theme, or be brave and use personal experience and expertise to create a new and one-of-a-kind recipe. Whenever anything turns out especially well, it is also a nice idea to include a decorative copy of the recipe in the package.

Also to be made in the kitchen, but not to be eaten, are gifts such as dough ornaments and candles. Dough ornaments are popular because they can be made as simple or ornate as the designer pleases. These ornaments can easily be shaped out of a flour, salt, and water dough. Once the ornament has taken shape, stick a hook in the top and bake for 30 minutes in a con-

ventional oven set at 350 degrees. When the baking time is complete, remove ornaments and after they have cooled, paint with fingernail polish or other shiny paints. When making candles, pour melted wax around a long wick or string in a sand mold or a disposable cup. Once the candles have hardened, break off the mold and surround the candle or candles with pine cones, silk flowers, ribbons, etc. on a tray.

Other inexpensive homemade gifts are baskets decorated with flowers, ribbons and potpourri, a frame filled with a collage of memorable and significant photographs, or a photo album covered with attractive material and trimmed with lace. It is also a popular gift idea to get a professional portrait done for family members or significant others. Department stores usually offer good quality prints and reasonable prices.

For those who insist upon buying the Christmas gifts they bestow on their friends and families, Sacramento does offer some selection of affordable gifts. When searching for the perfect gift, it is wise to keep the recipient's hobbies in mind. Discount stores such as K-Mart often sell sports equipment and cookware at cheaper prices. This time of year is also an especially good time to watch for holiday sales and stores that are going out of business, such as Gemco. Record City is selling many of its records and tapes for \$6.99 during the pre-holiday season, and if your grocery bill at Raley's exceeds \$25, for \$9.99 more, a 20 inch teddy bear might be the perfect gift for a kid brother or sister.

Speaking of kids, board games are always an entertaining and economical gift, and remember that in the winter months, any warm and snuggly gift is appreciated by the special people in your life.

Gifts to liven your Xmas list

by Tina Sibilsky
Staff Writer

'Tis the season for shopping, shopping, and more shopping. With only five shopping days between finals and Christmas, there isn't time to be picky when choosing gifts. So, Mom gets a bathrobe, shirts and ties are for Dad, and Sis gets a set of tools that will come in handy when you rebuild your car engine.

Your list is complete, but isn't it a little dull? Instead of buying Mom a bathrobe (she probably already has three others just like it), why not give her a toaster? Maybe this sounds just as boring as a bathrobe, but I'll bet she doesn't have a microchip toaster. It's the latest thing in kitchen appliances. This Russell Hobbs product has built-in grips which self-adjust automatically to the right bread thickness. It puts an end to bread that gets stuck in the toaster. It also has a color-coded browning control and defroster. This gray and red high-tech toaster has a slimline design and stays cool when it's in use. It costs approximately \$50.

Toasters aren't the only thing that have turned high-tech. Talking toys have invaded the stores this season. Teddy Ruxpin, the world's first animated storytelling teddy bear, was last season's big hit. He has returned this year, along with his best friend Grubby. These plush teddy bears come with a cassette tape that allows them to blink their eyes and move their lips to the words on the cassette. Other animated dolls include Charlie Brown, Big Bird and Mother Goose. These lovable creatures come with one cassette and a story book. They retail for \$50 to \$70. Additional tapes can be purchased for \$13.

Games have also gone high-tech. Tag has been given a whole new dimension with the invention of Lazer Tag. Using a Starlyte, you can shoot your opponent with an invisible infrared beam. If your opponent is hit, his Starsensor will beep and flash. The game kit also includes a Starbelt, and can be purchased for \$70.

For the adult who is really a kid at heart, how about a mini-Wurlitzer jukebox? This jukebox has synchronized blinking lights and a record that turns. It plays microcassettes when you insert a quarter. The mini jukebox comes with six microcassettes sung by the original artists. Songs include "Rock Around the Clock" and "Blue Suede Shoes." It retails for \$129. An additional set of four microtapes can be purchased for \$24.

For the person who would rather talk than listen to music, the Float Phone is just the thing. The Float Phone is cordless, completely waterproof and has a bouyant headset. You can take it with you in the shower or drop it into the swimming pool. The yellow and black phone operates on batteries and is automatically recharged when the headset is replaced in its base. It retails for \$159.

Moving from the swimming pool to the office, every executive will enjoy a solid oak waste basket. The basket is constructed of American oak and brass rivets and will enhance any office's decor. The waste basket sells for \$39.

Another type of basket that is a popular Christmas gift this season is a picnic basket. Red and white checkered table cloths have been replaced with pastel colors. At Weinstock's an exclusive picnic basket includes four plates, flatware and wine goblets. A table cloth and matching napkins are also packed in the basket, which retails for \$50.

There's always one person on the list who seems to have everything. To solve this problem, you can give this person a membership in the Dessert-of-the-Month Club. Once a month, for three months, a different dessert will arrive at your friend's home or office. Desserts include chocolate chip fudge cake and raspberry bars. The cost of the membership is \$69.

There are a wide variety of gift ideas for this Christmas season--some high-tech, some a bit outrageous. However, there should be something for everyone on your list.



Merry Xmas From The Staff
At Dr Kryslinski's Office

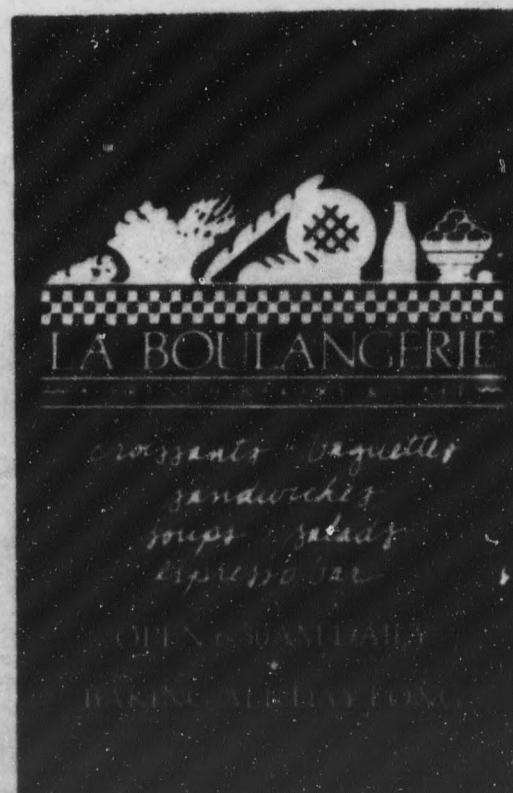
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Nearby options for snow bunnies and ski bums



by Cameron Billeci
Staff Writer

With the final exams right around the corner that "what-to-do-during-winter-break" feeling starts filling our minds. Whether it is a seasonal job you will corner or you are just going to party until school starts again in January, maybe you should think about giving yourself a lift.

A lift ticket to the slopes, that is!

Whether or not you could tell, it is ski season and the resorts are gearing up for a competitive winter.

There are about 30 ski areas within minimal driving hours of Sacramento but space's sake I have groomed them down to the top five areas (The Cam Five) for this winter that any skier will find challenging and fun.

(No. 1) Northstar-at-Tahoe: Located about six miles southwest of Truckee on Highway 267. It's 1700 acres, with 48 runs, has five double and three triple-chair lifts with two surface lifts. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rates are \$25 adults and children \$13. Halfday rates are available. There are also 25 miles of groomed and tracked trails plus overnight accommodations. For information call (916) 562-1010.

(No. 2) Boreal: Now in its 22nd year of operation, Boreal was the first resort to open this year with man-made snow. Currently, it is open only on weekends. Located on Interstate 80 near Donner Summit it has eight double and one triple-chair lift. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Its weekend and holiday lift rates are \$19 all day for adults, children and seniors \$17. Weekday rates are lower and there are morning, afternoon and night rates available. It offers a beginner's special which includes equipment, one lesson and a lift ticket for \$28. For information call (916) 426-3666.

(No. 3) Alpine Meadows: Bordering the pacific crest on Lake Tahoe's west side, Alpine Meadows is about 100 miles from Sacramento off Highway 89. Thrill yourself on 2000 acres and 100 runs dipping through steep chutes, open bowls and wide slopes. Open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. there are two triple, nine double and two Poma lifts. Also, new this year for children three to 12 years old is a ski school called Skiwee. Rates are \$27 for an all day adult ticket, \$11 for children. Halfday rates are available. For information call (916) 583-4232.

(No. 4) Kirkwood: Some say this resort is out of the way, but for what it lacks in accessibility it makes up for in abundant snowfall and the scenery can't be beat! It has some of the best downhill and cross-country skiing relief in the Sierra with plenty of steep chutes. Located 100 miles from Sacramento on Highway 88 it contains 2000 acres of skiing. Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. it operates six double and four triple chair lifts with one surface lift. An adult all day ticket is \$25, children and seniors are \$10. Halfday fares are available. There are 86 new condos for plenty of overnight accommodations. For information call (209) 258-6000.

(No. 5) Squaw Valley: This world class ski area is a challenge to the expert. It is located about 100 miles from Sacramento off Highway 89. It includes 27 lifts including a tram and a gondola. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. midweek and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends, the rates are \$28 for an all day adult ticket and children and seniors \$5. If you are over 70 years old you ski free! Friday and Saturday night skiing rates are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children. After a day on the slopes relax in the new Oasis Bay and Restaurant complete with waterfall at 8,000 feet. And try the new Siberia Express detachable quad chair. It is the fastest chair lift in the world. For information call (916) 583-6985.


There are many more fine resorts nearby not mentioned here that any skier would enjoy. For a complete list with special rates and coupon deals write to the South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 15090, South Lake Tahoe, Calif., 95702, and ask for their free "Ski Tahoe '86 Guide."

For snow phone information this season from Sacramento call (916) 445-7623 or South Lake Tahoe call (916) 577-3550.

ASI's Mountain Wolf Sports, located on campus in temporary building TW across from the Union has very reasonably priced rental equipment for the student. For \$15 you can rent skis, boots and poles for a weekend. Nordic skis are \$10. Call 278-6321 for more information.



So, remember, this winter, as you think about life going down-hill stay warm, have fun, think snow and carry your chains — whips are optional!



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A month of fun in Sacramento

by Jeanne Marie Suhmann
Staff Writer

For people who are not going home and are dreading the five long weeks of semester break, there is an alternative to a month of boredom. Sacramento has plenty of attractions and events in late December and early January to provide an interesting break.

The Sacramento Theatre Company, 1419 H St., will be presenting three productions during semester break. "The Gift of the Magi," a musical adaptation of O. Henry's touching story of the Christmas spirit of giving, will be playing through Dec. 27 on Stage Two.

On the McClatchy Mainstage, running through Jan. 3, is William Shakespeare's play, "The Taming of the Shrew," one of his most boisterous comedies. Also on the McClatchy Mainstage, starting Jan. 20 and running through Valentine's Day is "The House of Blue Leaves," John Guare's Broadway comedy hit of last season. Call the Sacramento Theatre Company at 446-7501 for more information.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," by Charles Schultz is playing at the Sacramento City Actors Theatre at Sacramento City College until Jan. 20. Call 449-7228 for more information.

The Sacramento Community Center Theater, 14th and L streets, will be the site of several musical events during break. The Nutcracker, a Christmas ballet, will be showing through Dec. 21. "Night in Old Vienna," New Year's Eve Gala presented by the Sacramento Symphony Association will also be at the center.

The Sacramento Symphony Classical Series No. 7 will run Jan. 9 through 11 and series No. 8 will be Jan. 16 through 18. The Vienna Octet will be presented Jan. 15, and "An Evening of Cole Porter," featuring some of his memorable songs from some of Broadway's longest running plays will be shown Jan. 23 and 24. For information on all these events, call the Sacramento Community Center at 449-5181.

The Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., will show two exhibits during break. "Picasso: Buffon" features etchings and aquatints by Pablo Picasso and runs through Jan. 4 and "Three Centuries of

Italian Drawings" covers the period of the Renaissance through neo-classicism. It runs Jan. 6 through Feb. 15. Call the museum at 449-5423 for more information.

For those who would like to try something besides the traditional holiday celebrations, there is Christmas Eve at the Zoo and Fairytale Town. Animals at the Sacramento Zoo, (Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park), will be opening their Christmas presents. The public is invited. Call 449-5885 for more information. For New Year's Eve, there will be a Music Man Public Dance at the Sacramento Community Center exhibit hall B-C at 13th and J streets. Call 449-5181 for more information.

The Sacramento History Center is having a Teddy Bear Show where they will be displaying the entries from the center's Dec. 6 Beary Best Christmas Contest. The show runs through Jan. 4.

Cal Expo and State Fair will be host to a gun show Jan. 3 and 4 and a new car show Jan. 9. Call 929-7766 for information on the gun show and 441-7482 for the car show.

The Bustamante Antique Show and Sale will be at the Sacramento Community Center, 13th and J streets, Jan. 9 through 11. Call 449-5181 for more information.

Old Sacramento honorary officials will be having their Sixteenth Annual Inaugural Ball. Its tentative date is Jan. 16. Call 443-7815 for location and information.

The mime company "Mummenschanz" will be presented as part of the UC Davis Arts and Lectures Series at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, 14th and L streets, Jan. 20 through Valentine's Day. Call the center at 449-5181 for more information.

The Sacramento Kings will have several home games during break. Call 648-0000 for more information on the King's schedule.

For announcements of current events in the Sacramento area, call the Sacramento Arts Hotline at 449-5566.

And as always, there is the Sacramento History Center, the California State Historic Railroad Museum and the Historic Governor's Mansion. For more information on the events and attractions in and around Sacramento, visit the Sacramento Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 1311 I St. or call 442-5542.

Food Drive

by Teddi Gunter
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving has passed. For many it was a time of feasting on turkey and other assorted goodies. Unfortunately, not everyone in the Sacramento and Yolo County areas was lucky enough to have turkey and trimmings. Many would not be able to have them at Christmas either, if not for the many food drives that help support organizations which distribute food to those in need during the holiday season.

CSUS has an annual Christmas food drive each year to benefit such organizations as Operation Santa Claus. This year for the first time a contest was held between the CSUS faculty and staff to see who could collect the most food. The contest was held between Nov. 17 and Dec. 5. A total of 22 collection boxes were placed in various spots around the campus.

The winner of the contest between faculty and staff will be announced today during the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony to be held at 4 p.m. at the Library Quad.

Anyone wishing to contribute additional canned and packaged foods may bring them to the ceremony. A jeep will be parked nearby to receive the contributions.

Ideas for winter travel

by Garth Stapley
Staff Writer

With finals over and semester pressures gone, students stage a mass exodus from Sacramento in search of greener pastures in which to spend the holidays. Most of us will grab our book buy-back bucks and hit the highway, more than happy to breathe easier for the next five weeks. But if funds are limited and trips are not well planned, holiday expenses can easily reduce us to the all too-familiar "starving students" that maybe we really are.

Like my grandfather told me, smart people go to college but smarter people go on vacation. Let's all be really smart and do both. Here are a few ideas for worthwhile trips that won't empty bank accounts:

First, for the ski bums on campus, trips to the Sierras come a dime a dozen. The best package I found is the Reno Hilton's starting at \$25 per person, double occupancy, for one night, breakfast, a cabaret show and two free cocktails. Call (800) 648-4882 for reservations. Another Reno package costs \$49.95 per person, double occupancy, and includes lift ticket, trans-

portation to the ski area, airport transfers and free cocktail. Call (800) 722-7366, "Ski Mount Rose." A good number to have for all Tahoe skiing information is the ski hotline (800) 822-5922.

For those students with a flair for the international scene (and a bigger wallet), Prestige Travel is offering a relatively cheap package to the Austrian Alps for \$669 per person, double occupancy. The offer includes air free, six nights' accommodations, free transportation for ski equipment and more. For more information, call 447-2323. If Canada sounds more appealing, there is a deal to British Columbia starting at \$499 per person, double occupancy, for five nights, lift tickets and air transportation. Call 381-3463 or Canadian Pacific Air Lines.

Most of us won't be able to afford even these reasonable rates, but there is plenty to keep one busy right here in California. For example, one-day cruises are offered from Newport Beach to Catalina Island for \$19.50. Call (714) 673-5245 for reservations. Palm Springs can be done for \$85, including two nights of hotel accommodations and 48 hours of free car rental with unlimited mileage. Call (714) 520-5080

for information. Disneyland can be done for \$77, two nights and paid admission at the same phone number.

For students with an extremely limited budget, try the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose where the visitor will find a window built into the floor, staircases leading nowhere, a chimney that rises four floors to stop just one and one-half feet from the mansion's ceiling, and doors that open into blank walls. Call (408) 247-2000. Then there's always the San Diego Zoo, a worthwhile attraction at \$6.50, and the new Marine World in Vallejo.

Cruises are usually out of the question for students, but if you don't mind staying in the budget rooms you can go from Los Angeles to Ensenada, Mexico and back for \$290. That's compared to \$585 for the same trip in the owner's suite. The cruise lasts three nights and includes everything except fares to L.A. Call (305) 373-7501.

If Europe's your thing but the air fare scares you, try Air Portugal's offer of \$225 round-trip to Lisbon when your companion pays the regular \$449. The people are great and food and hotels are cheap. For information, call (800) 221-7370.

Holiday dieting

Real life nightmare or trendy fad?

by Robert Edward Kittrell
Special to the *Hornet*

Nobody diets during the holiday season. It's a fact of life — a fact that most of us are proud to admit. But why is it that we brag about our capacities to eat and drink from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve when we fight with our bodies all the rest of the year? Why is it that TV commercials are filled with visions of regal feasts, with homey, excited figures decked out in their Sunday best, sitting around huge dining tables, anticipating the mouth-watering morsels set before them?

"Hey Fred, how's it goin'?"

"Pretty good, Harold. How was your Thanksgiving?"

"Great. I ate so much!"

It's all around us. Why do people want to gorge themselves endlessly? Why?

People don't eat for the pure pleasure of eating. God, no! As much as we complain about our weight, as much as we spend each year on health clubs and exercise equipment trying to get rid of all the calories our bodies collect during the year, why would we want that 10, 15, or 20 pounds we will inevitably gain during this digestive

orgy? It comes down to something simple, so fundamental, you will think yourselves not intelligent for not seeing it. People eat for their stomachs.

My stomach is in a constant growl from the week before Thanksgiving to January first. It's very annoying. At times, it's downright painful. It knows that this is the time of year that it gets fed. It is anticipating on its own. My stomach is an intelligent creature. It is screaming at me to put something, *anything*, fattening and good tasting into it. Anything it doesn't like, it will send back, postage due. If it really doesn't like it, it will send it back through my nose.

I do not believe that this problem is peculiar to me. We all have this problem. It's something we all live with. We try to ignore it by acting excited that the holiday season is here. We say we can't wait for the food, but most of us live in a quiet, desperate fear of our stomachs. We are afraid of what it might do if we don't treat it right. We can put up with it for most of the year, but it expects good food during that last month or so. Most of the time when it acts up, we throw it a big cookie or a Snickers, and we don't hear from it until we get home.

It's a constant tease. We throw it a goody and hope it will suffice, but we live in fear of that single, ear-splitting, gut-wrenching, hair-parting belch it will slip us in our Communication Studies 5 final speech, telling us, "I Am Not Pleased."

That is why we eat during the holidays. It is our chance, our excuse, to make our stomachs happy. This is the time of year we need that intestinal recess. And it pays us back by not growling loudly when the professor asks us a question. It's tenuous at best, but the fear is momentarily repressed.

Apparently some of us have conquered the fear. I was sitting in Spanish class, my mind wandering (as it is wont to do), when I heard a girl say:

"I'm on a diet."

I'm on a diet?!

It didn't matter that this girl was rail-thin, at least not at this time of year. She was actually refusing to feed her stomach!

I was upset. What made this girl, a mere *freshman*, stronger than I? But then my stomach began speaking.

"What did she say?" It asked.

"Nothing. Go back to sleep," I implored.

"She said she was on a diet, didn't she?"

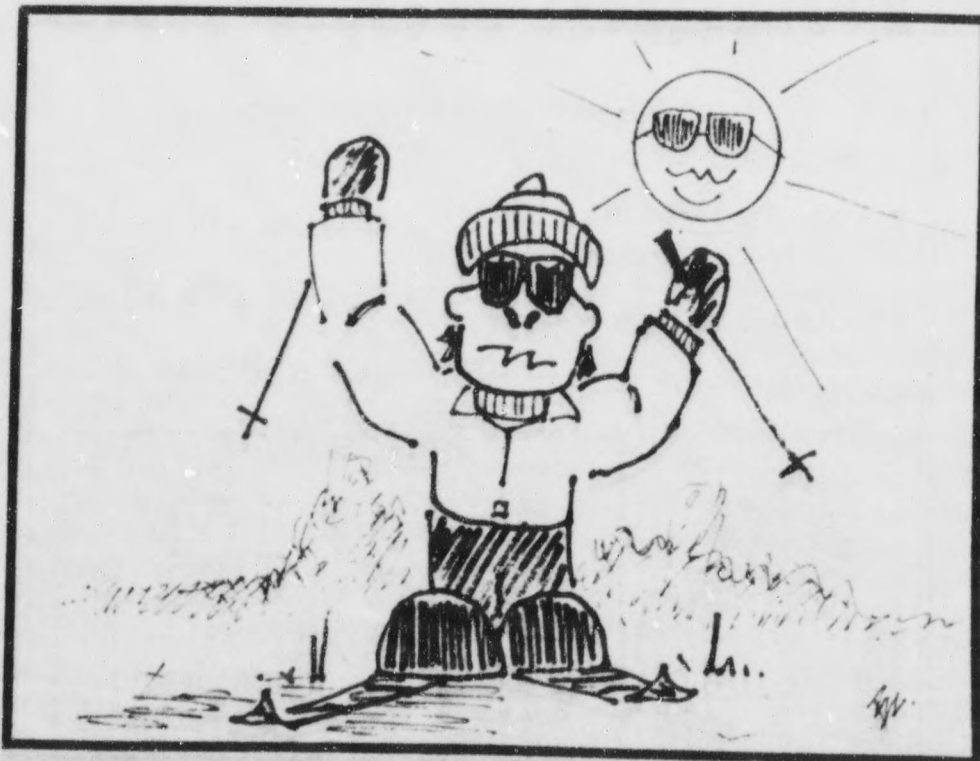
"I... no, she didn't." I began to panic. I felt that monster belch coming on, and the teacher was beginning to look my way. "Didn't she?" It asked. "Yes!!!" I screamed.

My stomach struggled, wrenched, trying to free itself from my cavity. It began to swear as I have never heard it before. It was trying to rocket out of my mouth, to smother her face, to suffocate her in a flurry of stomach juices, flailing arms and muffled cries. I calmed it down by throwing it my last Life Saver. It explained to me that it hoped she wasn't starting a trend, and that if she was, it wanted to put an end to it.

"Don't worry," I said, "you'll get fed."

As I write this, I am chuckling lightly to myself. I know that after January 1 when the New Year's hangover is gone and I've forgotten my resolution, I will go back to the tug-of-war with it. But, as they say, every dog has his day. Now is the time for us to be at as much ease as we are able. Now is the time to stuff our faces with as much food as possible and let our stomachs go about their business. It is *Our* day now. Eat well and savor the moment.

The closest snow for Christmas



by Mark R. Condit
Staff Writer

Closest snow? I say it's Jack over on Cadillac Drive. Yeah — look in the White Pages — Snow, Jack W., 22 Cadillac Drive. What's that, a five minute walk from campus? What? Oh, you want the kind you can frolic in? How about the kind that'll make you frolic all night, no matter where you are? What's that? You're just saying NO this Christmas season? You're probably better off without that snow anyway. And although I don't know Jack personally, I doubt very seriously he would

have wanted all you ski nuts showing up at his place in your gloves, mitts, dickeys, bibs and bota bags some morning ready to ski all over him, anyway.

Then again, what are the options? At press time, Kirkwood is not open. They "need an additional two to three feet (and are) not able to set an opening date at this time." Mount Rose, at 8,260 feet above sea level, is "not open due to lack of snow." Northstar isn't open but is "making snow as temperatures permit." Sierra Ski Ranch is "not open for skiing." Sugar Bowl isn't open either. And Ski Incline, though not open, is "taking an aggressive snowmak-

ing policy."

But that doesn't change the fact that there is no snow around here this year. There's six to eight inches falling on Buffalo as you read this, no doubt. And this reporter is flying to Moose Pass, Alaska for two weeks to enjoy a white Christmas. But what are you here in the Sacramento area supposed to do?

Spend a day or two with your grandparents; the conversation is a lot better, and they won't let you catch frostbite.

Cut your ties with all fraternity and sorority members; your conversations will be a LOT better, and you'll be less likely to catch something.

Read a good book (I suggest something by Emerson or Thoreau); your conversations will improve, and you won't be so apt to catch a sunburn.

Even Betty Vasquez has different plans this Christmas season. That should be the first clue that something is up. There just ain't no snow around yet, unless you count Jack.

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Shoppers ease holiday stress

by Rod D. Chiuu
Staff Writer

It is time to prepare the Christmas list. Undecided on what to give to whom? Here are some ideas on clothing and unique gifts.

"You probably know the types of clothes that your receiver prefers. Just think of the clothes he or she needs, the colors the person looks good wearing, and the person's style for work or school," Mary O'Day, personal shopper at I. Magnin said.

Choose sweaters, blouses or handbags for women, O'Day suggests. Accessory items such as scarves, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, gloves or belts are enjoyable presents. Lingerie is a "marvelous gift," O'Day says. "We sell a lot of lingerie to men buying for their wives or girlfriends at Christmas time." Shirts, sweaters, neckties or socks are good gifts for men. For grandparents, consider gift baskets filled with a variety of tea and biscuits or cheese and crackers.

Don't forget unique gifts. These are crystal ornaments for the coffee table or engraved silver bells for the Christmas tree. Put engraved stationery on your list. This

is "something that people really don't think about often as giving," O'Day added. These have a "personal touch."

What is the "perfect gift?" O'Day says it is "something that just really catches your eye that you feel that (is) just going to be the gift for that person."

Christmas is a time for shimmering lights and hanging articles. No, the tree is not the only thing you can adorn this year, try people! Women will glitter wearing gold or silver beads or detailed clothing, according to Dorothy Novack, personal shopper at Macy's. Suspenders slinging over men's shoulders will do more than just look stylish.

Luggage, candy and cosmetics are neat gift ideas. There is a new idea in alarm clocks. Instead of waking to that dreaded intermittent, electronic noise in the morning, you can be roused to a plastic-rapping woodpecker or a stomping alarm clock. Yes, it is equipped with feet.

It is easy for Novack to find gifts for all her customers. She usually walks through the store for ideas. "I don't think anybody has everything," Novack said.

Have fun shopping for your loved ones this Christmas. Who knows, you may spot that "perfect gift."

Where to get your gear

by Elizabeth Harlan
Staff Writer

Tennis players still crowd onto outdoor courts and moto-cross riders are still kicking up dust rather than mud. While bicyclists, joggers, and walkers, outfitted in shirt sleeves and shorts, converge in bike lanes, there remains constant unrest and hope for snow weather.

Although the days are filled with sunny, spring-like weather, the nights are becoming colder, and December is expected to provide the long awaited snow. Skiers are restless. Ski shops like Outdoorsman, Baron and Oshman's are deserted except for the depressed, disheartened employees. But shop owners have filled their shops

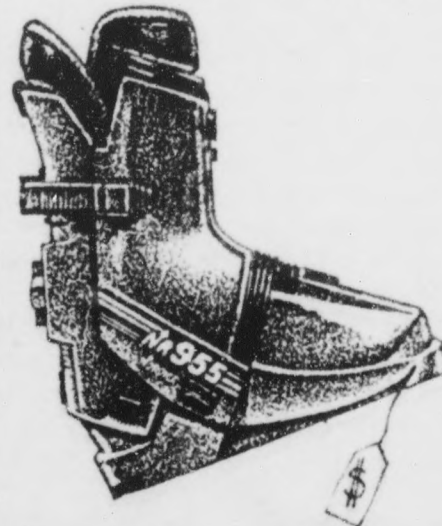
with sweaters, jumpsuits and ski equipment, so the shops are crowded with good items to buy.

So far the ski shops haven't announced any specials. But, if the weather doesn't change soon, prices may plunge. For snowmobiles and other mechanical equipment, Pine Grove, Tahoe and Truckee have the best supplies.

Once one is ready for the slopes, Kirkwood, Heavenly Valley and Squaw Valley have popular reputations. Kirkwood and Squaw Valley also offer cross-country skiing. For cross-country beginners, areas like Strawberry Ski in Kyburz, Sequoia Ski Touring in Grant Grove and Lassen Park in Red Bluff all offer cross-country trail access for around a dollar.

Cross-country skiing has increased in appeal not only because of its low cost, but also because of the rising interest in health. Cross-country skiing is providing skiers with variety and the opportunity to work every muscle while having a good time.

Events for the less active are held during the winter carnival season. At Mt. Shasta's Alpenfest from Feb. 6 to 8, there will be competitions and games to watch or join. For information call 926-4865. The Lake Tahoe/Truckee Snowfest is scheduled to run from Feb. 27 through March 8. For more information regarding the Tahoe activities call 583-7625.



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Loving You

I've been watching and admiring
the way you're always loving you.
You fix your hair,
You wear perfume.

I've seen you take yourself to dinner
and share a drink or two with you.

I've heard people ask you out
But you always tell them no,
At first I didn't understand,
But now I think I know.

It's because you take up all your time
you take up all your heart;
I know no one will ever
tear you and you apart.



Christy Cayo

Fay Wray Visits a Consciousness-Raising Group

I used to know where I stood with the big ape
So, I was under his thumb a lot of the time —
I still felt like
He put me on a pedestal.
I never said much about Son of Kong,
(Of course it wasn't mine)
But I didn't expect much
In that area
Anyway
(He's an animal
If you know what I mean).
But he started getting depressed
After they built the World Trade Center.
He felt . . .
Smaller . . .
Somehow.
Still, I always felt
He thought of me as something exotic,
Until he read Darwin —
Now he treats me like I'm family.
If we could only talk —
But he just grunts when he comes home.
You want to know what really drives me bananas?
I wish just once he'd stop calling me
"The little woman."



Jo Ashburn

Resolution

Layers of the cloak unveiling, white
Sinking down through insanity;
Depths of my mind — distorted time and space.

Like an ugly sneer behind a smile,
Stabbing love with profanity,
Decaying atrophy beneath the lace.

Lying below this hideous pile,
Shining amidst the vanity,
Dazzling thoughts — orderly. And in place . . .



Michael Ketron

People Kill People

Home late.
Step inside
close the door
lock the lock, hook the chain
turn the dead bolt.

Now,
Close the curtains
switch on the lights.

Home safe.
Feels so good to lock the people out.
Sleep tight and sweet dreams.

Hear a noise
lie awake and listen
check the headboard
find the gun.



The Field

I hear the piercing
sonic mumbling
of a 747 overhead extinguished
by an awkward silence
slicing through
the sterile November evening.

A "too quiet" quiet
fills my bones
and mind reminding
me that some mutation
of peace and serenity
can exist amidst the smouldering ashes
of congestion, traffic, pollution
and political lies I am bombarded with
every day.

I begin to walk
toward an uncomprehended destination
killing cracking pine needles underfoot.
(Us neurotic city boys need the reassurance
of a little noise pollution
between the peace and serenity
once in a while.)



Dan Grant

Safe again.
Fall asleep.
Up early.
Daylight
feels safe
unlock the door, step outside, get the paper.
Read about the victims of the night.

Christy Cayo



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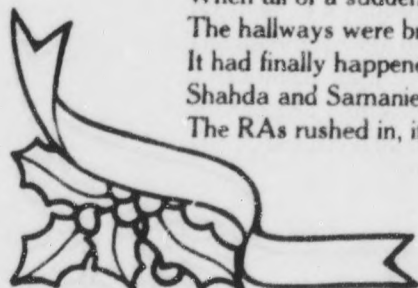
'Twas the night before Christmas

(or a reasonable facsimile thereof!)

by Bob Barbeau
Staff Writer

'Twas the night after finals, and all through the dorms
Such a party was going you'd've thought it a storm.
The alcohol was passed from one hand t'nother,
It was great, everyone, together like brothers.

Dan Judge with his eyepatch, and I, with a grin,
Had just settled down with a bottle of gin,
When all of a sudden there arose such a clatter
The hallways were brimming with people and chatter.
It had finally happened, the time, it was here,
Shahda and Samaniego, the fight of the year!
The RAs rushed in, it was a sad, muddled affair,



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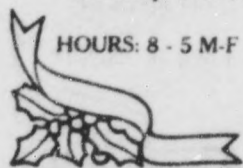


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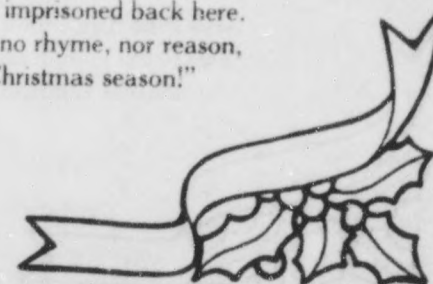
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Michael was bleeding, he'd been struck with a chair!
The crowd gathered around, there was no room to hide,
So the fight was delayed as it was taken outside.
The fans cheered wildly with merriment and mirth,
When along came a stranger — Dr. Don Gerth.
He took a deep breath and announced with a glare,
"Samaniego's the winner, of this I declare.
Now Michael! Now Sandra! Everything's fine,
Go back to the party and get drunk on some wine."
But stop they would not, they continued the fight,
And by the time it was over, it was almost light.
From Sutter to Foley to Draper they raced,
Up Jenkins, up Sierra to the top they were chased.
So up to the top of the dorms the crowd flew,
With Dr. Don Gerth trailing the crew.
"We're not intending to continue the fight,
We're just racin' inside for some cold Bud Lite."
The fight, it was over, the beer flowed free,
Everyone joined in the festivities.
The semester was over, no concerns, no cares,
No getting up early, no combing your hairs,
No brushing your teeth, no studying for tests,
Now is the time for fun, games and rest.
Late the next day, the party was through,
And no one who left felt sad or blue.
Hungover, perhaps, and a little bit sore,
But everyone was able to walk out the door.
Vacation was starting for each and everyone,
A month-long period, so joyous and fun,
And I'll always remember as I stumbled on out,
The words that Don Gerth said with sureness, not doubt,
"Have a good time for the rest of this year,
The time's too short, 'til you're imprisoned back here.
So, have a ball and party with no rhyme, nor reason,
And everyone enjoy a merry Christmas season!"



Christmas Blessings

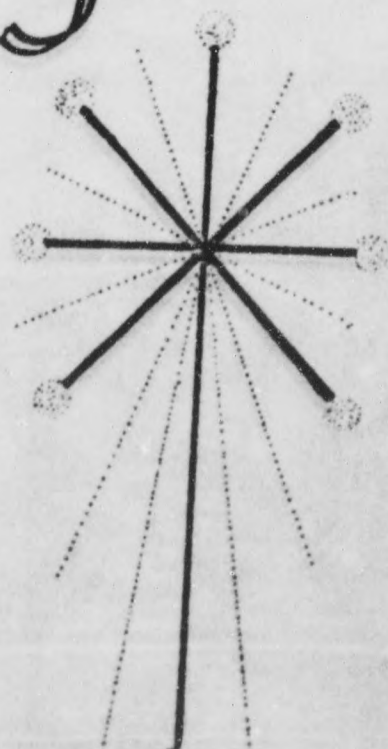
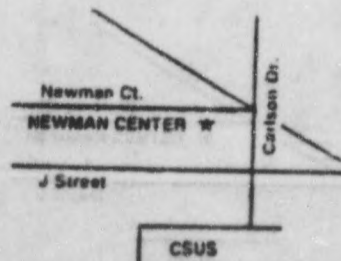
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Third annual CSUS tree lighting today

by Lori K. Smith
Staff Writer

Today starting at 4 p.m., the third annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony will kick off the holiday season. The ceremony is filled with caroling, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus. Lasting about an hour, the event begins with speakers, CSUS President Donald Gerth, the university staff assembly chairman and the faculty chairman. After the speakers, the Christmas tree — located in the east corner of the library quad, near the Engineering building — will be lighted.

The event is sponsored by the University Staff Assembly (USA). USA's purpose is to pull the university staff together for ideas, socializing, and networking. According to USA's Rita Maningo, three years ago USA wanted to create an event that would accomplish this. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony is what evolved. It was the "catalyst that started things (for USA)," Maningo said.

The ceremony is based on the Christmas tree lighting ceremony that takes

place every year in New York's Rockefeller Center. Maningo explained that one of their staff members always felt the event was "somewhat magical." Maningo said, "We wanted something that the staff put together. (We wanted it to be) our contribution." Maningo added that the Christmas tree idea was perfect because it was "something that could be shared with everyone."

Although the Christmas tree ceremony is USA's project, people all over campus volunteer their time and talents to the event. The Music department's choir members and brass section have performed music at the ceremony in past years and are expected this year. Maningo said that by performing music, the choir members and musicians help get the caroling started.

Plant Operations is responsible for setting up the Christmas tree. Andy Kingsbury of Plant Operations said they string the lights, hang the tree decorations, and "replace about a couple dozen (Christmas lights) per year." Unfortunately, according to Kingsbury, some of the lights are stolen

every year.

The CSUS shop structured the metal star that sits on top of the tree. Maningo said they wanted a generic symbol for the tree because the ceremony is to be "a sea-



sonal event that includes all (religious) backgrounds on the campus." According to Maningo, the last two years "have gone off without a hitch." This year is expected to be just as successful. "The staff is real

important," Maningo explained. She stressed that the success of the ceremony could not be possible without the staff volunteering their time and money. The donated money is used for things such as the Christmas tree decorations.

The winners of the campus food drive — also a USA sponsored project — will be announced at the Christmas tree ceremony. The food drive, which began on Nov. 15, is set up as a friendly competition between the staff and faculty. Boxes used to collect the donated food have been placed throughout the campus. The staff contributes to their boxes, while faculty members fill faculty boxes. Students are welcome to help out and contribute to the team of their choice. According to Maningo, the donated food will be distributed throughout the community.

Everyone, including family members, are invited to the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Maningo explained that the Child Care Center usually brings the children over to visit Santa Claus and get a treat.

'Tis the season for bah humbug

by Janet Harley
Staff Writer

Deck the halls with . . . oh, bah humbug. Deck the halls indeed. If anything's gonna get decked, it'll be the sales clerk at Macy's.

Christmas was, at one time, fun. People looked forward to getting together with friends and family; to taking a break from school; to opening presents.

All that has changed. Now, the only thing to open is a charge account. The only thing to look forward to is a VISA bill. And be sure that will be the size of Idaho. It's all different.

Now, it's impossible to turn on the telly without seeing a commercial with a Santa in it. And that's before the leaves have even started to turn.

Every other TV ad shows a scrolling list of holiday songs we can all sing along with; they're just too, too familiar. And the voices we hear singing these old favorites,

well, they're another story.

Does anyone actually buy these albums? Has anyone ever heard of these singers? Well, supposedly, there's a market for everything. All ya gotta do is check with Madison Avenue.

And that shouldn't be too hard to do. Capturing the true meaning of Christmas has turned into a euphemism for going into debt. Children are taught early on to ask for dolls requiring adoption papers. And they, of course, cost a fortune.

These same kids used to ask for little brothers or sisters. Or even puppies!

Bah Humbug! Life used to be so simple. Everyone was satisfied with less. Now, everyone wants more. And more and more and more.

People are busy trying to outdo each other. Homemade cakes and cookies just don't cut it anymore. Now, it's important to get a car wrapped in bright red ribbon. No kidding, the ribbon's gotta be RED, or else.

The make of the car? Yeah, that's important, too. But probably not as paramount as having a red ribbon. The crucial thing to remember is to keep your priorities straight.

Prioritizing helps get you through this "fun" time. Of utmost concern should be shouldering your way to the head of those countless long lines you'll no doubt find everywhere. Not to worry about the old woman with blue hair. She probably won't make it through this joyous season, anyway.

Oh, before the lines, you'll have to find a parking spot. Good luck! Chances are, you won't even be able to get out of your driveway. Especially if you live within a 25-mile radius of anything resembling a shopping mall.

If you're really lucky, you own a jiffy little import. You know the type. Its maneuverability is without equal. You'll be able to squeeze into and around anything

else that happened to be there ahead of you.

Well, now that you've got that all-important holiday spirit, you're ready for the madness. You're ready for the crazed. You're ready for what Madison Avenue has lead you to believe is Christmas.

Happy Birthday to you.

Happy Birthday to you.

Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus.

Happy Birth . . .

Nah . . . Bah humbug!



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